

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-6, 8-21 and 24-27 are pending in the present application. In the Final Office Action mailed September 13, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by DE 83 08 99.3.

Claims 9-21 and 24-26 are allowed. Claims 4-6, 8, and 27 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Such indication is appreciated.

The undersigned appreciates the Examiner's willingness to discuss claim 1, and the proposed amendment, in another telephone interview on this date. Claim 1 is herein amended consistent with that discussion. To summarize, the prior art of record does not disclose a welding apparatus, as called for in claim 1, wherein the gas source is connected to a gas path that does not have a manually operated valve therebetween. As clearly shown in DE '999.3 there is a valve between the regulator 5 and the pressure bottle 1. This further clarifies what was previously claimed ("a gas path free of restriction therein"). The amendment presented herein clarifies that the present invention has no such valve therebetween. The Examiner has agreed that no new search is required and to entry of the amendment.

Applicant has amended allowable claim 27 to incorporate the subject matter of base claim 1, and has added new claim 28 that incorporates the subject matter of original claim 1 and allowable claim 8.

Therefore, in light of at least the foregoing, Applicant respectfully believes that the present application is in condition for allowance. As a result, Applicant respectfully requests timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-6, 8-21 and 24-28.

A fee in the amount of \$260.00 was paid via EFS-Web on October 30, 2007 for fees associated with entering the claim newly presented herein.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's consideration of these Amendments and Remarks and cordially invites the Examiner to call the undersigned, should the Examiner consider any matters unresolved.

Dated: December 12, 2007  
Attorney Docket No.: ITW7510.061

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Respectfully submitted,

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**General Authorization and Extension of Time**

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-2623. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by credit card authorization being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-2623. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extensions under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2623. Please consider this a general authorization to charge any fee that is due in this case, if not otherwise timely paid, to Deposit Account No. 50-2623.

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